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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

## INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT Walter Ulbricht

ORIGIN

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- 25X11. Walter Ulbricht was returned to Berlin from Moscow by the Russians in 1945 immediately after the occupation of Berlin. He was given the task of creating the political machinery to spread Communism throughout Germany. While most of the old Communist leaders simply wanted to reestablish the KPD, Ulbricht initiated the program of creating cover organizations (FDGB, FDJ, etc.) and also was the foremost sponsor of the KPD-SPD merger.
2. Ulbricht made several trips to Moscow in the summer of 1945 to gain support for his plans. Stalin himself reportedly favored mere reestablishment of the KPD, since he feared the SPD might outweigh the KPD in a merged party. However, by autumn it had become evident that the KPD was unable to gain any widespread support by itself. Ulbricht was then given official support for his program.
3. Contrary to Ulbricht's repeated predictions, the SED failed to spread beyond the Russian Zone and then suffered a severe defeat in Berlin in October 1946. As a result Ulbricht was withdrawn from his position as Communist Chief of Staff. During this period it appeared that Paul Merker might be his successor; however, Merker lacked Ulbricht's excellent Moscow contacts. Ulbricht is said to enjoy the especial confidence of Beria.
4. In the spring of 1947, Ulbricht returned to the scene as the expert for the Communist program in the western zones of Germany. He has no official position in the Agitprop Section but his main activity is furnishing propaganda material for the Communist press in the West. This propaganda, intended to "mobilize the masses in favor of the economic unity of the workers" is based primarily on the "plans of western high finance to enslave the workers in the western zones". Emphasis is laid on reports of "the catastrophic food situation" and the poverty of the workers. Ulbricht's immediate goal is domination of the trade unions in the West.
5. Ulbricht consults frequently with the "West-Department" in Karlsruhe which is allegedly directly responsible to Moscow and outside the jurisdiction of the SMA Political Division. This department is reportedly furnishing Ulbricht with anti-western propaganda material received from Russian sources.

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